



# THE LAKE DAVIS UPDATE

May 2007

Newsletter for the Lake Davis Pike Eradication Project

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northernpike](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike)**

## Lake Davis Pike Eradication Project

In January, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) announced plans to eradicate the predatory, non-native northern pike. The project is being planned carefully to protect public health and mitigate for impacts to recreation through a restocking and publicity plan.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Treatment Date: Some time between Sept. 4 and Oct. 31, 2007.
  - Lake Volume for Treatment: 45,000 - 48,000 acre-feet, or as close to 45,000 acre-feet as possible if 45,000 acre-feet can't be maintained due to dry conditions.
  - Rotenone formulation: CFT legumine. If needed, supplemental use of a safe and minimum amount of Noxfish.
  - Pre-treatment trout stocking of nearby waters in the Lake Davis vicinity.
  - Pre-treatment liberalization of bag limit to 10 trout at Lake Davis.
  - Post-treatment trout stocking in Lake Davis.
  - Continuation of well monitoring program.
  - Mitigation for unlikely, but potential impacts to the local drinking water supply.
- A full project description can be found at the DFG pike web site at: **[www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike)**.

## New Fishing Regulations for Lake Davis

- **New limit on trout: 10 per day**
- **Immediately kill caught pike and return to the lake instead of turning them in to DFG**

In an effort to afford anglers the opportunity to maximize catching trout prior to the northern pike eradication project, the Fish and Game Commission has agreed to change the daily trout limit at Lake Davis from 5 to 10 trout per day. The possession limit for trout would remain 10 fish.

The Fish and Game Commission also adopted a change to the northern pike regulation. Any angler catching a pike in Lake Davis or its tributaries should immediately kill the pike and return the carcass to the water. The new regulations will become effective in mid-May 2007. Notices of the changed daily trout limit will be posted at the lake when they become effective.

As before, it would be illegal for a person to possess or transport a pike. Also, the general northern pike regulation - kill the pike by cutting off the head and reporting and turning in the pike to DFG - will continue in effect for all other waters within California.

## Upcoming Workshops

See page 3 for a complete list of upcoming workshops.

## Do you Know Where Your Drinking Water Comes From?

If you live in the City of Portola, your water comes from two wells in the City, and from Willow Springs. An additional well at 6th and Pacific will be on-line in early Fall. These sources provided water for the community during the 1997 rotenone treatment of Lake Davis, and Portola continues to use them today. In addition, the City of Portola is building a brand new state-of-the-art "reverse osmosis" water treatment plant for Lake Davis water. This plant will replace the old facility which has not been in operation since 1997. The new treatment plant is being built with state and federal monies, and is expected to go on-line in 2008. When completed and certified, Lake Davis will again become a drinking water source for the City of Portola.

**Safety First:** The Pike Eradication Project is required

to comply with Section 116751 of the California Health and Safety Code. Under this law, before Lake Davis water can be used, the Department of Health Services must make sure that no detectable residuals of the poison (the piscicide rotenone), breakdown products, and other components of the formulation remain in the drinking water supply or adjoining wells after the activity is completed.

This code (Section 116751) is one of the strictest drinking water standards in California. This means that at the conclusion of the pike eradication project, the water from Lake Davis will have met cleaner standards than the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, and Proposition 65 (Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986).

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## Chemical Components and Water Quality Workshop

About 40 local residents spent their evening at the Portola Station Baptist Church meeting room on April 25 and learned more about rotenone and water quality at the Chemical Components and Water Quality Workshop. A presentation about what happens to the components of the rotenone formulation after they are put into the water was made by Dr. Ron Tjeerdema, Chair of the Environmental Toxicology Dept. at UC Davis. Dr. David Spath, Department of Health Services, discussed drinking water standards and the even more stringent protection mandated by the Health and Safety Code requirement that applies to the Lake Davis pike eradication project. Presentations were also made by DFG biologists Dr. Ed Pert and Randy Kelly.

The rotenone formulation that the Department plans to use in September is called CFT Legumine. The formula also contains dispersants to help the rotenone mix with water as well as residues from the manufacturing process. Workshop presentations can be viewed at: [www.dfg.ca.gov/nothernpike](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nothernpike)

People asked questions about the breakdown process, and whether or not the chemicals could cause cancer. Some commented that they did not feel anything should be added to Lake Davis. Because of a law passed during the 1997 rotenone treatment, Lake Davis water is being held to a higher standard for drinking water quality. The lake will not be allowed to be used for drinking water until there are no detectable residues - which is a more stringent requirement than either the Proposition 65 law or the Safe Drinking Water Act.



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## Regional Water Board Permit Update

DFG has proposed three different ways to make sure that the rotenone in Lake Davis is neutralized before any water is released down Big Grizzly Creek and into the Feather River. They have asked the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) to approve and issue a permit to allow any of the three options. The three options are: (1) close Grizzly Valley Dam until the rotenone biodegrades naturally in the lake; (2) set up an engineered series of portable

water tanks to allow the water to be neutralized before releasing into Big Grizzly Creek, and (3) use the creek below the dam to allow the rotenone to be removed by adding potassium permanganate. The Regional Water Board is proposing to order that the Department use one of the first two methods. The Regional Water Board has scheduled two public hearings about this matter. Please refer to the enclosed public hearing notice for more details.

## Forest Closure Orders

In support of DFG's implementation of the Pike Eradication Project, the Plumas National Forest will be issuing and enforcing one, possibly two, temporary Forest Closure Orders for the area affected by the project.

### Forest Closure to Protect Human Health and Safety

The primary Forest Closure will be implemented to protect human health and safety during the time that the rotenone is being transported, stored and used in and around Lake Davis. This closure would prohibit vehicle and foot traffic entering onto National Forest System Lands, including developed campgrounds, as well as undeveloped areas within the closure area. The closure will go into effect the week of September 4, 2007 and will remain in place until the area is determined by the Plumas County Department of Health to present no risk to the public.

Exceptions to the Forest Closure will be made to allow access to private landowners and residents who cannot access their property via another route, emergency vehicles, personnel implementing the pike eradication project, designated USFS contractors, and staff essential to the operation and maintenance of the Smith Peak fire lookout station.

Implementation of this closure will be done by physically closing some roads, setting up checkpoints at the main access points, and providing information through meetings, informational signs and other public notification. Interagency law enforcement will be on site to enforce the order.

### Forest Closure to Protect Historical Resources in the Exposed Lake Bed

The second Forest Closure will only go into effect if the lake level drops below 45,000 acre-feet and is designed to protect historical artifacts that could be exposed in the previously submerged lake bed. This closure will prohibit people from walking into the exposed lake bed to prevent unintentional harm to any historical artifacts that may be uncovered as the lake level drops. This closure would remain in effect as long as the lake capacity is below 45,000 acre-feet.

Questions and comments related to the Forest Closures can be directed to Lori Wood of the Plumas National Forest. Phone: (530) 836-7171; Email: [loriwilson@fs.fed.us](mailto:loriwilson@fs.fed.us). Or attend the Forest Closure and Public Safety workshop on June 26, 2007.

## Upcoming Workshops

The pike eradication project has been approved and to help the public understand the various components of the project, new workshops have been scheduled. The purpose of the workshops is to provide the opportunity to hear presentations from various individuals with expertise on a wide variety of topics and to allow the public to ask questions about the project.

### Economic Impacts

**May 22, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.**

This workshop focuses on the various economic aspects of the project and will include presentations by the forensic accountant and real estate appraiser hired for the project.

### Forest Closures and Public Safety

**June 26, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.**

This workshop will look at the specifics of the forest closure and how public safety will be protected.

### Project Implementation Open House

**August 1, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.**

This workshop will offer a preview of what will be happening in your community and at the lake as the project is implemented. Speakers from previous workshops will also be present to talk to you on a variety of topics.

**All workshops will be held at the Portola Station Baptist Church — Fellowship Hall, 171 S. Gulling St., Portola.**

Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities upon request. Please contact Betsy Magladry at (530) 832-4680. Requests made at least 72 hours in advance will help to ensure availability.

## The Perils of Pike!

The northern pike is a predatory fish that has been illegally introduced into California. It has impacted fishing at Lake Davis which is an important part of the local economy.

If pike should escape from Lake Davis, they could threaten many native fishes as well as the sport fishing economies and commercial salmon fishing industries in California and other western states.

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** Quincy Children's Fair 10-2 p.m., Quincy Fairgrounds. Contact: Plumas Rural Services, (530) 283-1135.

**Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** Lake Davis Steering Committee Meeting, 1-3 p.m., Portola City Hall. Contact: Jim Murphy, City of Portola (530) 832-6800.

**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** Kid's Fishing Day at the Mill Pond, Graeagle. Contact: Tim Kurdupski (530) 836-2828.

**Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>** Lake Davis Economics Workshop, 6-9 pm Portola Station Baptist Church. Contact: Julie Cunningham, DFG, (530) 832-4069.

**Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** Sierra Valley Birding Picnic 2-8 p.m. at Feather River Land Trust's Maddalena Ranch corral, east of Beckwourth, 1.7 miles south of State Route 70 on A-24. Contact: Linda Blum (530) 283-1230.

**Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>** Free Fishing Day in California.

Free fishing statewide.

**Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>** Lake Davis Fishing Derby, 5a.m.-5p.m. Contact: Benji Gentry, (530) 832-1852

**Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** Hearing on Order for Waste Discharge Requirements for Pike Eradication Project, 6:00 p.m., Portola Station Baptist Church, 171 S. Gulling Street, Portola. Contact: Phil Woodward, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, (530) 224-4853.

**Thursday/Friday June 21/22** Hearing on Order for Waste Discharge Requirements for Pike Eradication Project. Agenda begins at 8:30 a.m. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, 11020 Sun Center Drive #220, Rancho Cordova, CA. Contact: Phil Woodward (530) 224-4853.

**Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>** Lake Davis Forest Closure and Public Safety Workshop, 6-9 p.m., Portola Station Baptist Church. Contact: Lori Wood, U.S. Forest Service (530) 836-7171.

**Questions?**

Call the

Portola Office

of the

California

Department of

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Or email:

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Or visit our

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